(d) There is a ban on de-reservation of vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment. Further, OBC candidates get relaxation in upper age limit, number of attempts and in qualifying standards.

Four-Laning of NH-17 in Goa

*258. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the four-laning of National Highway 17 from Patradevi in North Goa to Polen in South Goa has commenced;

(b) if not, the stage at which the project lies; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in implementing the project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The entire stretch of NH-17 from Patradevi on Maharashtra/Goa border to Polem on Goa/Karnataka border in the state of Goa has been identified by the Government for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for improvement under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase IIIB on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The bids received for preparation of DPR have been taken up for evaluation by the National Highways Authority of India.

(c) There is no delay in the implementation of the project.

FDI hike in telecom sector

*259. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to with-hold its decision to hike FDI in telecom to 74 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the security concern arising from increase in FDI was the main reason?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The